

In The Centre

— Monthly Newsletter and Calendar



Centre Presbyterian Church, 83 New Park Rd., New Park, PA 17352
 Phone: 717-993-2345 Find us on the web: www.centrechurchpa.org

Pastor Don's Keyboard

We are in good hands!



We have had quite a journey together! You stepped up and met the challenges to worship and serve after the retirement of a beloved longtime pastor and in the midst of a global pandemic. Together we tackled major Sanctuary and Manse renovations and office equipment upgrades. You gave generously to the Building Renovation fund and mission causes here and abroad. Our investments in the Compassion Center in Fawn Grove, the Mason-Dixon Community Services in Delta, the food distributions in Columbia, Pa have blessed so many with tangible care. Our Sunday School classes and Vacation Bible School flexed with the restrictions as we discovered new ways to meet online for Worship, Session, Trustees, New Members, Noon Prayer, First Look Bible Study, Women of Centre and other meetings. You have been so gracious and flexible through it all!

Some companies like to claim that if we purchase their products we will be in good hands. As followers of Jesus Christ, we know that we are in the caring and strong hands of God. In Christ we are loved, celebrated, and nurtured to become lights to a troubled world.

It was God's loving hand that led me to serve as your transitional and then covenant pastor for the last 3 years. God knew that I needed to be in your compassionate care as my family and I experienced the sudden loss of loved ones. God also knew that I needed a place to regain my confidence as a pastor and a leader. Your good hands have carried me in so many wonderful ways! Thank you!!

Now I commit you to those competent and tender hands of God. God will guide you, stretch you, deepen your faith and love, so you will continue to be a welcoming light in Christ. I will stay in touch with you and cheer you on as your friend and co-worker in Christ.

Gratefully Yours, *Pastor Don*

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Guest speakers in June | 2 |
| Connect with God each day | 2 |
| Monday Bible Study | 2 |
| Tuesday Prayer Meeting | 2 |
| Session Meeting Notes | 3 |
| Trustees Update | 3 |
| Women of Centre News | 4 |
| Vacation Bible School | 4 |
| Backpack Food Program | 5 |
| Mission Spotlight | 5 |
| Celebrations | 6 |
| Calendar | 7 |
| Update on Pastoral Search | 8 |

Worship



Preaching topics for June 2021—10:00am

- June 6th — Philipians 3,** Senior Recognition, Women of Centre Award
- June 13th — Philipians 4,** Dr. Sally Brown, Big Buttress Party
- June 20th — Philipians 5,** Father's Day, Pastor Don Farewell Reception
- June 27th — Philipians 6,** Vacation Bible School Program

Guest Speakers in June

Join us for the following guests in June:

June 13th—10:00am—Dr. Sally Brown, Professor of Preaching and Worship at Princeton Seminary. An ordained Presbyterian minister with 20 years pastoral experience prior to entering academia, she continues to teach and preach in local congregations.

June 20th—9:00am—Daughter of Centre, **Margy Trimble**, home from Lahore, Pakistan. Margy will share with us their life of mission in Pakistan and work at Forman College.

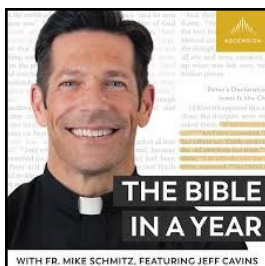


Dr. Sally Brown



Margy Trimble

Connect with God each day



Bible in a Year

Recently I discovered this podcast that is reading through the Bible in a year. You can pick it up any time and in most app stores. It is called "The Bible in a Year" and Father Mike Schmitz walks you through the entire Bible in 365 episodes, providing commentary, reflection, and prayer along the way.

I found this Catholic priest refreshing in his approach to help everyday people understand the Bible and mature in faith in Christ. Try it out and let me know what you think!

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/podcast/all-bible-in-a-year-episodes/>

Other good devotional resources are:

- ** **Daily Bread** devotional <https://odb.org/>
- ** **D365** devotional <https://d365.org/>

Monday Evening Bible Study

All are Welcome to: First Look Bible Study

This month: **Philippians**
Monday nights at 7pm
(no experience needed)

Schedule: Mondays, June 7, 14, 21, and 28



Join via Zoom:

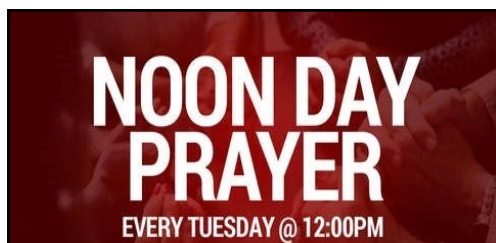
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86828779296?pwd=Sm95dlhPSmxjTzBJckZ6SVlnZmRPQT09>

Meeting ID: 868 2877 9296

Passcode: 930546

OR – **Join by telephone:** 1 301 715 8592

Tuesday—Noon Prayer Meetings



1. Join Zoom Meeting from your computer or ipad:
<https://zoom.us/j/104976436>

OR

2. Call in at 1 929 205 6099, Meeting ID: 104 976 436

Everyone is welcome to this time of prayer.
Join us online or on your phone, wherever you are!

Leading in Faith

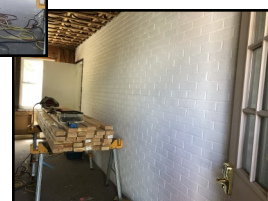
Session Meeting Notes

During the May 18th Session meeting, the following items were covered:

- While reviewing the financial report it was noted that our year-to-date offering income is down compared to previous years. Information will be provided in future newsletters to make members aware of this concern and its impact on our future financial status.
- A committee was formed to make contact with a potential transitional pastor who is retired and may be interested in helping Centre in that position.
- After a lengthy discussion of the current CDC guidelines and the Presbytery's recommendations, it was the consensus of the Session that, for the month of June, all members who are able will be encouraged to get the Covid-19 vaccine and all attendees to worship in the sanctuary will be treated equally by asking everyone to wear masks to show their concern for themselves and others. This policy will be reviewed on a monthly basis but will likely be in place until Pennsylvania lifts the masking order (when the adult vaccination rate in the state reaches 70%). Singing with masks on will be allowed. Special services in the sanctuary may be held following our face masking order. Receptions will not be permitted. Regarding Vacation Bible School—masks will be optional for children and vaccinated adults, required for non-vaccinated adults, and we recommend that adult volunteers be vaccinated.
- It was agreed to move to the Summer Worship time of 10:00am beginning June 6, 2021.
- Although there is concern that some members may not return to in-person church because of the convenience of the live streaming of our services, it was agreed that the hybrid church will no doubt continue as it offers the opportunity to worship with us to both local and long distant people who cannot attend in person. Recent broadcasting problems are being addressed and additional training with our equipment provider is planned in June.
- Session approved a Summer Reading Plan for children and adults proposed by Sunday School Superintendent Betsy McPherson.

Trustees Update

1. The 42 inch high railings on the front porch and steps have passed the building code inspection.
2. The final Lexan panels have been installed for the big dormer in front of the church . The ladders have been removed from the roof. (see photo on right)
3. The trustees are working on solving the problem of the bird nest debris on the front porch. Also, the porch floor and the stone wall will be cleaned.
4. Progress at the manse:
 - a. Bathtubs have been installed in both bathrooms.
 - b. New subflooring has been installed in the dining room.
 - c. The flooring for the house has been selected and ordered.
 - d. The brick wall in the old office has been painted white and all new 2x4 wall studs have been installed.



Women of Centre News

June Gathering: If you haven't been attending the WoC monthly meetings, this would be a great time to start! We are planning an informal, bring-your-own "brown bag" dinner on **Tuesday, June 8th at 6:00pm** in the social hall of the education building. Beverages and desserts will be provided. Social distancing will be in effect. All women are welcome and encouraged to attend. It will be a wonderful opportunity to relax, socialize and catch up with friends after a year of being quarantined!

Spring Clothing Drive: It's Spring Cleaning Time! Let us assist you in your efforts to clear out those items that no longer bring you joy! The annual spring clothing drive will be held from **Sunday, June 6 through Sunday, June 13**. Please leave clean, gently used clothing, blankets, sheets, shoes, purses and toys in the left side of the cinder block garage. Do not leave anything outside. Items will be taken to the Fawn Grove Compassion Center to help those in need both locally and worldwide.

Special Recognition Planned: During our 10:00am worship service on **Sunday, June 6th**, the Women of Centre will be honoring June Stratmeyer with a Presbyterian Women Life Membership. This program was established to recognize faithful service to the women's organization and to the church. June has unselfishly given her time and talents to WoC for many years. She is moving on to new adventures and will be very much missed at Centre.

Save the Dates: A Women of Centre Coordinating Team meeting is planned for **August 10th**. The WoC are planning another bring your "brown bag" dinner for **September 7th**.

Faith Formation

Vacation Bible School

June 21-25, 2021

6:00-8:15pm each evening

Includes: Bible stories, music, crafts, recreation, science projects, snacks and mission.

For ages pre-K thru 8th grade



As Knights of God, the kids will go on a quest in search of the King's Armor!

The VBS registration form is available at church or from the Centre website—www.Centrechurchpa.org. Contact Betsy McPherson at 717-487-8072 or betz721@gmail.com for more information. Masks will be optional for children and vaccinated adults, required for non-vaccinated adults. Adult volunteers are encouraged to receive the vaccine.



Outreach & Mission

Backpack Food Program

The Deacons were proud to report that Centre sponsored 13 students in the **Backpack Food Program** last year. A total of 40 elementary and middle school students were helped in 2020 and Fawn United Methodist Church, who runs the program, hopes to help many students again this year.

There are two ways you can help provide food to students of South Eastern School District for the weekends of the 2021-2022 school year:

1. If you or your family would like to sponsor a student for the school year, the cost is \$250. For details on how to sign up, please contact Jo Ann Clement at 717-825-7505.

2. If you would like to make a donation (any amount will help) - you may: drop your donation in the offering plate, mail your check to the Deacons, in care of Centre Presbyterian Church with a note designating that it is for the Backpack Program, OR you may do so online by clicking the "giving" tab on our website and selecting the Deacon Backpack Fund. Please do so by August 1st.

Thank you.



Mission Spotlight - Seitz family serving in Taiwan

Dear friends,

In a graduate school seminar taught by Dr. Luis Rivera-Pagán, I learned the word "xenophilia," literally, "love of the foreign." We know its antonym, "xenophobia," much better, and one of the main debates of our age is whether pluralism is possible, sustainable, or desirable. Divisions are often painfully visible. Sometimes being different is exhausting or confusing. Still, for Christians I believe xenophilia certainly fits with many of our biblical teachings: 'love your neighbor,' 'the stranger shall be as your neighbor,' 'show your love for the alien,' and on and on. In the Bible, there's often a reciprocity to this love; you were aliens and so you shall treat the alien well. Strangers aren't just tolerated or accepted; we are to love the stranger.

I find myself deeply grateful for the Taiwanese community and its witness. Highlights of the last months have been talking to Taiwanese missionaries back from Southeast Asia, sharing about our work online with Cincinnati Presbytery, meeting with other missionaries in Taiwan (from Thailand, Korea, and Wales), and enjoying the Lunar New Year break. Emily invited kids from one of the churches where we serve to go ice skating at Taipei Arena during the long holiday as a chance to have fellowship outside of church. Kind of fun that there is a place for us to ice skate on a sub-tropical island! Emily also took the kids hiking in several different parts of northern Taiwan, and while we live in the city, we're also grateful for this natural beauty. Through our children, we've learned to love Taiwan in some of the ways they love Taiwan, through its treats (boba tea is a current favorite), its people (the kids they play with at school and in the parks), and its places (forests and beaches and cities). After more than ten years here, this once strange holiday (Lunar New Year) is also our holiday and we're grateful to share it with others.

My prayer...is that in the intractable difference of our societies you can also love those who are very different. We are also grateful for the ways you show your love, through prayer and encouragement and invitations to share about this place we love.

The Seitz Family (Jonathan- jonathan.seitz@pcusa.org
and Emily- emily.seitz@pcusa.org)

Visit our missionary website: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/the-rev-dr-jonathan-and-emily-seitz/>



Celebrations

Happy
Birthday

Happy June Birthday!!

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1— Lovevena Day | 10—Ian McPherson |
| 1—John Gemmill | 10—Laura Walters |
| 1—Sherry Neale | 10—Eric Wilson |
| 5—Marg Graybeal | 14—Dale Barshinger |
| 6—Peiton Black | 17—Jack Trout |
| 6—Tess Leighty | 22—Kevin Marsteller |
| 7—Bill Chester | 24—John Hope Anderson |
| 7—Allison Weaver | 26—Don Hackett |
| 8—Jeff Stratmeyer | 26—Aiden Yahnke |
| 9—Melanie Rhein | 27—Deb Lannon |
| 10—Don Marsteller, Jr. | 27—Dale McPherson |

Happy June Anniversary!!

- 4— Mike & Julie Schrum
- 4—Don & Barbara Wilson
- 6—Dale & Kathy Barshinger
- 8—Ralph & Jane Travis
- 21—Shane & Jackie Smithson
- 27—Michael & Deb Lannon
- 28—Bob & Jen Scarborough
- 30—John & Kim Gemmill
- 30—Paul & Betsy McPherson



Farewell Celebration for Pastor Don and Rila

To celebrate Pastor Don's time at Centre and share gratitude for his leadership and pastoral care, we are holding a reception (safe and socially distanced) on **Sunday, June 20th**, following our 10am worship service. It will be held in a tent next to the church and boxed lunches will be provided.

Please RSVP by June 14th so that we will be able to serve everyone. You may: Sign up in the back of church, email mary@centrechurhpa.org or phone or text Jo Ann at 717-825-7505 or Deb at 717-487-7832. Please include your name, number attending and # of turkey sandwiches and/or # of ham sandwiches.

June Assignments

Trustee of the Month - Mort Baker 410-322-2879

June 2021

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----|
| | | 1 12:00—Prayer Meeting Online 6:00- Women of Centre June Gathering/ Brown Bag Dinner 7:00—Trustees Meeting | 2 6:00—PNC Meeting | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 10:00—Worship Service in the Sanctuary & online Senior Recognition & Women of Centre Award Spring Clothing Drive | 7 7:00—First Look Online Bible Study | 8 12:00—Prayer Meeting Online 6:00- Women of Centre June Gathering/ Brown Bag Dinner 7:00—Trustees Meeting | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 10:00—Worship Service in the Sanctuary & Online Guest—Dr. Sally Brown 11:00—Porch Party! Spring Clothing Drive | 14 7:00—First Look Online Bible Study July/August News- letter Items Due | 15 12:00—Prayer Meeting Online 7:00—Session Meeting | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 9:00—Margy Trimble Presentation 10:00—Worship Service in the Sanctuary & Online 11:00—Farewell Reception for Pastor Don | 21 6:00—Vacation Bible School 7:00—First Look Online Bible Study | 22 12:00—Prayer Meeting Online 6:00—Vacation Bible School | 23 6:00—Vacation Bible School | 24 6:00—Vacation Bible School | 25 6:00—Vacation Bible School | 26 |
| 27 10:00—Worship Service in the Sanctuary (vent) & Online—VBS Closing Program | 28 7:00—First Look Online Bible Study | 29 12:00—Prayer Meeting Online | 30 | | | |

**“Centre is a
Christ-centered,
community
focused,
fully alive church
that grows as it
serves”.**

**All kids,
K-8th, are
welcome to
Vacation
Bible
School -
June 21-25**

| | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name | Pastor Don Hackett Sun. School Betsy McPherson Secretary Mary Linkous Youth Joy Chester | Cell Phone | 717-203-1018 717-487-8072 410-382-6166 410-458-5712 | Email | pastordonhackett@gmail.com betz721@gmail.com mmlink@zoominternet.net joyatcentre@gmail.com |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

83 New Park Road
New Park, PA 17352
(717)993-2345

Centre Presbyterian Church

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
STEWARTSTOWN, PA
PERMIT NO. 42

Centre Presbyterian Church
83 New Park Road
New Park, PA 17352

Update on Pastoral Search Process

With the retirement of Pastor Don Hackett set to begin in July 2021, our pastoral search process has begun.

Here's what is happening now and in the future:

Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

1. Those elected to serve on the PNC include: **Elders – Donald Wilson, Mary Linkous, Deacon – Marg Graybeal, Trustee – Hugh Scott, Women of Centre – Jackie Smithson, Youth – Ian McPherson, Member at Large – Kristina Wilt.**
2. The PNC is preparing a Ministry Information Form (MIF) that will be approved by Session and the Donegal Presbytery Committee On Ministry (COM). This information about our church is provided to potential candidates.
3. Our Personnel Committee and Treasurer are preparing a financial review, pastor position description, pastor search budget, compensation package range, and other documents for Session and the Presbytery's Connecting our Ministries Commission (COM) review and approval.
4. The PNC will advertise the position, receive resumes, interview candidates, select a candidate for vote, and present the terms of call to Session for approval.
5. The candidate will meet with the Presbytery of Donegal's COM to discuss the fit between the candidate and Center and Examination Commission for membership in the presbytery.
6. The candidate will be introduced to the congregation in various ways.
7. A congregational meeting will be held to vote on whether or not to request that the Presbyter of Donegal install the candidate as Centre's next pastor.
8. The PNC will oversee the welcome and ongoing support of the approved candidate.

Please pray for our PNC and for wisdom as we discern our direction and leadership for the future.
